

-Byrnes
Stanton-Tatnall House
201 Old Mill Lane
Stanton (Mill Creek Hundred)
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-168

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

STANTON-TATNALL HOUSE

HABS No. DEL-168

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Address: 201 Old Mill Lane, Stanton (Mill Creek Hundred), New Castle County, Delaware.

Present Owner and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pyle, Jr.

Present Use: Private residence.

Statement of Significance: This mid-18th century house with later additions contains interesting exterior and interior decorative details.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The following partial chain of title is from deeds in possession of present owners:

	Grantor	Grantee
10/22/1780	Stephen Stapler, Samuel Smith & wife	Caleb Byrnes
	"For one fourth of the Mill & Mill land & c ^a at Red Clay Creek"	
4/16/1795	Samuel Smith, Johathan & Daniel Byrnes, heirs of Caleb Byrnes. . . "two equal undivided parts"	Joshua Stroud [Scharff, Vol. II, p. 924]
5/15/1812	Joshua Stroud & wife "For an undivided half, part of Red Clay Creek Mill & c _____"	Jonathan Byrnes & Daniel Byrnes
6/3/1812	John Stapler & wife "For an undivided fourth part of a Mill, Lands, & Premises in Newcastle County"	Stephen Stapler
6/-/1812	Jonathan Byrnes & Daniel Byrnes "For a tract of Land & Mills in White Clay Creek Hundred"	Joshua Stroud

1/7/1813	Joshua Stroud & wife "For a Tract of Land & Mills &c --"	Stephen Stapler
5/-/1815	Francis Haughey, Esquire High Sheriff of New Castle County	James Brian
8/10/1820	James Brian and wife "For a Merchant Mill, Saw Mill and two tracts of Land in New Castle County . . ."	Samuel Bailey

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The present owners purchased the property of approximately 45 acres c. 1940.

2. Date of erection: S(anton?)*
W A
17 40

*Probably refers to W. Stanton and his wife whose first initial was A, in glazed headers on south gable end.

3. Original plans: The brick rectangular main portion of the house with gambrel roof predates the brick and frame north addition with shed roof and later frame kitchen addition with gable roof. Former access to cellar was probably on north of main portion. Wooden partition on second floor added later, closing up window in the east wall of main portion.

B. Historical Events Connected With the Structure:

On December 12, 1710, Cornelius Empson's will left the property on which the house is located to daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth. W. Stanton built the south portion of the house in 1740. There is no further account of the property until 1772, when there was a condemnation of lands for a grist mill by Stephen Stapler and Samuel Smith. In 1780 there was the transfer noted above. On April 16, 1795, Samuel Smith and Jonathan and Daniel Byrnes, heirs of Caleb Byrnes, sold to Joshua Stroud the two equal undivided parts in the mill and property. In 1812 John Stapler, grandson of Stephen, sold to Stephen Stapler, his brother, the quarter-interest held by him. Stephen Stapler already owned a quarter-interest in his own right. In 1813 Joshua Stroud sold his interest in the mill to Stephen Stapler, who operated it until it was sold on a judgment by the sheriff. The transaction in 1820 included ". . . buildings and tenements, and fifty-four acres. . ." to Samuel Bailey. In 1852 Bailey sold the property to Joseph Tatnall and a Mr. (William) Lea, a grist mill firm. By 1864 Joseph Tatnall was the sole

owner, and in November 1885 the mill was destroyed by fire. The house was in ruinous condition when the present owners purchased it "twenty-five years ago."

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C. Sources of Information:

Cooch, Francis A. Little Known History of Newark, Delaware and its Environs. Newark, Delaware: The Press of Kells, 1936. pp. 81, 83.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware 1609-1888. Vol. II. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888. pp. 923-24.

Seven deeds, property of Walter Pyle, Jr., present owner (1780, 1812, 1812, 1812, 1813, 1815, 1820).

Prepared by William B. Bassett
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
with the cooperation of
Robert L. Raley, AIA
July 1965.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This mid-18th century brick house has interesting exterior detail and well-executed interior paneling.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Three-bay front by two bays with side and rear additions; two stories.
2. Foundations: Stone rubble and mortar.
3. Wall construction:
Main portion: Red brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers at second floor walls only except for date gable (AWS 1740) in glazed headers on south.
Additions: Red brick north addition (common bond with headers every sixth row) and frame (wooden clapboarding) kitchen addition.
4. Porches, bulkheads: Open porch on north; bulkhead to cellar on south (probably 19th century alteration).

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5. Chimneys: Brick with concrete facing, three-part chimney on north end of main portion; one brick chimney (no concrete facing) on north addition.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: North entry door off porch; 19th century wooden trim and paneled wooden door. West entry door; eight-panel wooden door with four-light transom window above inset from door surface. East entry door; Eight-panel wooden door with four-light transom window above (flush with door).
 - b. Windows and shutters: Main portion; first floor - twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung wooden sash. second floor; - six-over-nine light, double-hung wooden sash. attic; six-over-six light, double-hung wooden sash. Additions; first floor; six-over-six light, double-hung wooden sash. second floor; six-over-six light, double-hung wooden sash. No shutters.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gambrel; wooden shingles on wooden lath on small wooden rafters; shed roof on portion of addition, tar. Gable roof with wooden shingles over kitchen. Pent roof between first and second floors on east and west (formerly all four sides of main portion of structure).
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Wooden (top to bottom) - cyma recta, cyma reversa, box and ovolo strip below. Wooden plain board eaves.
 - c. Dormer, cupolas: None.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: First floor, main portion; rectangular with two rooms (vestibule, living room) in south part, one room across north portion acts as entry parlor. Two closed string stairways up from vestibule and entry parlor. Addition: Dining room east of main structure, and kitchen east of dining room.

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Second floor, main portion; four bedrooms with wooden partition where formerly a window had been on the east exterior wall.

Addition: One storeroom.

Attic, main portion; three storerooms with access to crawl space above.

2. Stairways: Wooden, closed string stairway with mahogany newel post and handrails. Steep stair ladder to cellar from entry parlor.
3. Flooring: First floor; random width yellow pine (up to 14").
Second floor; random width yellow pine (up to 14"), and poplar
Attic: Yellow pine.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doors: Wooden panel.
6. Trim: Wooden paneling and paneled cabinets over corner fireplace in entry parlor. Mid-19th century wooden trim; some doors and former mantel (now stored in basement).
7. Hardware: HL hinges, wrought iron latches.
8. Lighting: Electric
9. Heating: Six corner fireplaces, two wall fireplaces; corner fireplace in southwest corner of living room probably later 19th-century addition.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The structure faces southwest and is situated so that the ridge of the gambrel roof runs generally northwest to southeast.
2. Outbuildings: An old barn and shed lies to the northwest with the former mill situated to the southeast.
3. Driveways: A dirt and stone driveway leads off of Old Mill Road off of which a similar roadway runs to the west of the structure to the former mill.
4. Landscaping: Surrounding shade trees include a walnut and a fine tulip tree.

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